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Obituaries

Joseph P. Burke, 63, intelligence official

Joseph P. Burke, 63, a business executive and former federal government intelligence official, died yesterday at his home in Silver Spring.

Mr. Burke began his career in intelligence work in 1950 as an analyst for the Armed Forces Security Agency, predecessor of the National Security Agency. During the next 29 years he held a number of positions in operations, administration and management.

He was chief of planning, deputy comptroller, director of personnel and of training, and commandant of the National Cryptologic School.

After retiring from the National Security Agency in 1979, he was named chairman and chief executive officer of the Kennedy Bank and Trust Co. After Kennedy's merger with Citizens Bank of Maryland, he was appointed chairman and chief executive officer of ASI Inc., a management consulting and administrative services company.

Mr. Burke also was president of JOMIM Food Service Inc., and a director of REGSAV Inc., the Corporation for Applied Systems, the Parvus Co., First Fidelity Bank, and Metro Mortgage Corp., all businesses in Maryland.

Maryland Gov. Harry Hughes named Mr. Burke chairman of the Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission for the 6th Circuit and a member of the Montgomery County Revenue Authority.

An active Catholic layman, Mr. Burke was vice chairman of the board of regents of Good Council High School in Wheaton, a teacher in the Confraternity for Christian Doctrine program at St. Camillus Church in Silver Spring, and a director of Providence Hospital.

Mr. Burke was born in Darby, Pa., and moved to the Washington area in 1946.

He was a carrier pilot in the Pacific during World War II. A retired commander he was active in the Naval Air Reserve.

He received a bachelor's degree in government and foreign affairs from George Washington University.

Mr. Burke's awards include the highest decorations of the National Security Agency, among them the Exceptional Civilian Service Medal. At his retirement he was presented the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement by the director of central intelligence.

He is survived by his wife, Marie O'Donnell Burke; seven children, Michael Burke of Boyds, Md., Elizabeth Oleszewski of Bethesda.



Joseph P. Burke

Patrick Burke of Gaithersburg, and Paul, Theresa, Joseph and Matthew Burke of Silver Spring; a sister, Joan Scanlon of Springfield, Pa.; a brother, Gerard Burke of Silver Spring; and four grandchildren.